

NCH . NEWS . . .

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | 2201 P St NW | Washington, DC 20037

Phone: 202.462.4822 | Fax: 202.462.4823 | INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG | WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG

NCH News -- July 2008

This is the July issue of NCH News.

Information on how to unsubscribe is found at the bottom of this email. If you would like to receive a print version of this newsletter, please contact: swaite@nationalhomeless.org

In this issue:

1. NCH Welcomes New Interns
2. Now Available: Soul of a Woman
3. DC Homeless and Advocates Rally for Rights
4. In Memoriam: Utah Phillips
5. Homeless Workers Sue Nashville Car Wash for Wages
6. Focus on Tent Cities
7. Upcoming Speaking Engagements
8. Pittsburgh Food Not Bombs Under Attack

NCH Welcomes New Interns

This month, NCH is joined by more interns than ever before.

Sandy Klanfer is a 20-year-old senior majoring in Sociology at Amherst College. Sandy has been involved in social justice advocacy since high school. He hopes that his internship will help him to develop new approaches to addressing the problem of homelessness, which he can then utilize in efforts in his current and future communities. His hobbies include Ultimate Frisbee, crossword puzzles and reading.

Andrew Malloy is a 19-year-old junior majoring in Political Science at the College of the Holy Cross. Andrew has volunteered for afterschool programs and campaigned for political candidates. He is seeking to gain more experience in public policy through his internship. He is a ski instructor, and enjoys running and playing soccer in his spare time.

Simon Patton is a 24-year-old medical student in his 2nd year at the University of Kansas. He worked for a year in a shower facility in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he first heard about NCH. Simon hopes to gain a greater awareness of health issues affecting people experiencing homelessness. He enjoys sports, reading and playing the harmonica.

Andrea Anderson is a 24-year-old graduate student in Social Work at Michigan State University. Previously, Andrea was involved in direct service, interning with the MSU Sexual Assault Program and volunteering at the American Red Cross. She wants to get involved with policy work and advocacy at NCH. On her time off, she likes to read, bike and go camping.

Caitlin O'Neill is a 21-year-old senior majoring in Political Science at Chico State University. She previously interned with the Chico Community Legal Information Center in the Housing Law and Environmental Advocacy department. Caitlin hopes to gain a better understanding of how a nonprofit advocacy organization works, in order to inform her future decisions. She likes to go to the beach, and tries to stay involved in her community.

Eric Frenkil is an 18-year-old sophomore majoring in International Relations at Beloit College. He is Social Action Vice President for the North American Federation of Temple Youth, and has interned with the Darfur Association. He is seeking to gain further grassroots advocacy experience with NCH. In his spare time, he enjoys acoustic and jazz guitar and "adventure around Baltimore".

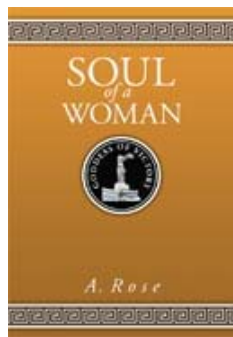
Andrew Foglia is a 21-year-old senior majoring in Political Science at Davidson College. Andrew founded a social justice project in high school, and since then has worked with Habitat for Humanity. He was inspired to intern with NCH after reading *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood* by David Simon and Edward Burns, which interested him in urban poverty issues. He likes to read, write and run.

Lauren Gilpin is a 21-year-old senior majoring in English and Psychology at Vanderbilt University. She has volunteered for three years at Safe Haven Family Shelter in Nashville, Tennessee, and also with Habitat for Humanity. She is interning with NCH to learn more about the issue of homelessness. Her hobbies include painting, music and soccer.

Also joining us are Teana White, who is returning for another internship with NCH after having completed her first earlier this year; and Mike Jones, who was unavailable for interview.

Now Available: Soul of a Woman

Source: PR Newswire



In her new book, *Soul of a Woman* (published by AuthorHouse -- <http://www.authorhouse.com>), A. Rose presents a message of hope: It is possible for those imprisoned in poverty -- and perhaps pre-conditioned to a criminal life -- to break free of their debilitating circumstances without resorting to crime. Unlike the false and patently cruel plagiarism of fake-memoir writers such as Margaret B. Jones (*Love and Consequences*) or Misha Defonseca (*Misha: A Memoire of the Holocaust Years*), stark images of veracity are singed into every page of *Soul of a Woman*.

Soul of a Woman, told through the eyes of a child, traces the true journey of an American woman, dispossessed and struggling to survive through decades of poverty and homelessness. Her shining emergence from the depths of destitution, a stubborn social ill still fertile in the world's richest country, is a lesson in resiliency and hope for all those seeking freedom from the prison of poverty.

In a single year, more than 3 million American citizens will experience homelessness at some time, according to Rose. "Many are single-parent families and veterans," she writes. "Some cities are now criminalizing both their efforts to survive and the heroic attempts of Good Samaritans who try to help these unfortunate local refugees. Various municipal authorities are even making it a crime for people to congregate en masse, specifically targeting poverty-stricken groups that draw strength from each other.

"Constitutional lawyers are more qualified than I to argue on the apparent violation of the civil rights of this defenseless civilian population. However, thinking citizens with common sense and basic human decency need merely reflect on the words etched in stone on the Statue of Liberty:

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

"A passive, uncaring world turned away from over 6 million victims of the Holocaust," Rose writes. "Let us not emulate such a callous indifference to the suffering of millions -- those within the borders of the world's richest country -- our own people within the United States of America."

A. Rose is the pen name for the author, who wishes to bring an awareness of the tragedy of homelessness to the fore of America's consciousness. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to charities focusing on the homeless and the defense of children. *Soul of a Woman* is A. Rose's first book. More information is available at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>.

AuthorHouse is the premier book publisher (<http://www.authorhouse.com>) for emerging, self-published (<http://www.authorhouse.com/GetPublished/FAQ.aspx>) authors.

For more information, please visit <http://www.authorhouse.com>.

DC Homeless and Advocates Rally for Rights

Source: [DC Independent Media Center](#)



Around noon on June 5, homeless people and supporters marched from the Father McKenna center off North Capitol St to City Hall. Upon arrival, the picket and speeches were a backdrop to voter registration!

Speakers warned that closing shelters like Franklin (scheduled to shut down Oct 1) won't move homeless "eyesores" out of sight to distant shelters. Instead, people will camp out in downtown parks and doorsteps!

One marcher carried a sign reminding everyone that "Plans and promises won't keep the rain off me." This being so, speakers from Empower DC and the Father McKenna center warned that politicians who oppose creating housing for the poor will face removal from office if the voter registration effort is successful.

In the face of promises about "permanent supportive housing" that's supposed to replace facilities like Franklin Shelter, marchers yelled "give me a key!" Needless to say, as of 4 months to go until Franklin is to close, and with Central Union Mission slated to move farther away as well, these keys are nowhere to be seen.

According to speakers "The marching season is just beginning" and the City Council should expect more activism and fightback from the homeless!

In Memoriam: Utah Phillips



Folksinger and social justice activist Bruce Duncan Phillips, better known as U. Utah Phillips, passed away on May 23 after a long struggle with heart disease. He was 73.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, Phillips was strongly influenced by his parents' work as labor organizers, life riding the rails in the American Southwest, and witnessing the devastation of the Korean War during his time in the Army. He was active in the Industrial Workers of the World union (also known as the Wobblies) and the Catholic Worker Movement, and ran for Senate on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. He helped start and worked at Hospitality House, a Nevada City, California homeless shelter, and was an honorary member of the homeless community Dignity Village in Portland, Oregon.

Phillips was best known, however, for his contributions to the folk scene, recording 11 albums and tirelessly touring. He will be missed.

Homeless Workers Sue Nashville Car Wash for Wages Source: Nashville Homeless Power Project

On May 30, 2008, The Nashville Homeless Power Project (NHPP) assisted three workers file a collective action law suit against their employer, Shur Brite Hi Speed Car Wash on 1713 West End Avenue. The suit names William and Glenn Smith owners of the car wash. Minimum wage workers named in the suit claim they are forced to work unpaid hours while waiting for customers, and often do not know if they are being paid for their time working. If true, this would put their wages far below the federal minimum wage in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. If the workers win the suit, Shur Brite could be forced to pay double the minimum wage for every hour they have kept workers off the clock several years back, as well as attorney's fees. The Homeless Power Project estimates that Shur Brite's revenues average between \$150,000-200,000 per month but still routinely exploit their workers by denying their lawful wages.

Charles Yezbak attorney representing the workers explains the law, "The Fair Labor Standards says if a break time is to the benefit of the employer, the worker must be paid for that time. Unfortunately, some employers seek to illegally shift their business risks to low wage workers. Shur Brite wanted to have plenty of workers available for its peak hours but did not want to pay the workers for slow periods throughout the day. Repeatedly clocking workers out during slow period is illegal."

Simon Campbell and Joy Jordon are two of the first workers named in the suit. "I work two jobs to support my daughter. I've accumulated a \$900 light bill and no ability to pay it, I've been homeless, and now I'm at risk again of losing my housing. I'm not in trouble because I don't work; I'm in trouble because my work doesn't pay." Says Jordon. Simon continues "it's horrible waiting there. You're kind of boxed in. I can't leave and do what you want because you never know if a customer will come. You just want to work and get time on the clock. There are banks all around the car wash. I hate watching other people go into banks and put money in. I want to be able to save money, but I can't get a head at Shur Brite."

Garrett Stark Organizer with NHPP himself worked at Shur Brite one day to investigate the situation. He is not named in the case, but points to his pay stubs and clock in/out records to show how he received only around \$2.80 cents per hour for his more than 7 hours working. "We're hoping to not only file a law suit, but organize and build a movement so that no American who is working will be homeless. We hope to add many more workers to this suit as it progresses, and educate car wash customers about the root causes of homelessness. Shur Brite is one of the few places in town that a worker with a conviction on their record can get work, and many are homeless or one paycheck away as a result of its wages. But the real criminals here are the employers who are violating federal law. Workers have paid their debt to society; it's time Shur Brite pays its debt to the workers."

Focus on Tent Cities



NCH News will now feature a regular Focus feature. Each Focus article will deal with a different aspect of homelessness in the United States and the struggle to end it. If there's a topic you would like to see covered in Focus, please email swaite@nationalhomeless.org.

In some communities, people experiencing homelessness have sought shelter in tent cities. A tent city is a temporary housing facility, somewhat like a shantytown. As the term would indicate, however, tent cities are made up exclusively of tents (though these can run the gamut from the very rudimentary to cabin-like structures employing a tent as a roof). They're also distinct in that they are sometimes established or sponsored by homeless service organizations.

Currently, the best-known tent cities in the U.S. are Tent City 3 and Tent City 4, located in the Seattle area and sponsored by the Seattle Housing and Resource Effort and Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League (SHARE/WHEEL). These settlements came into being as a result of a long legal battle following the city's shutting down of two that SHARE/WHEEL had previously established. Although 2004 county commission's report on the Tent Cities noted their usefulness in overcoming the area's shelter shortage, their presence is still opposed by some nearby residents.

Some other U.S. tent cities have included those erected by FEMA and U.S. Navy Seabees in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as well as that in St. Petersburg, FL, which resided from 2006-2007 on the property of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; and currently include Camp Quixote in Olympia, Washington and Dignity Village in Portland, Oregon. More recently, the BBC has reported the erection of tent cities in Los Angeles in response to the current foreclosure crisis.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements Where to Catch NCH's Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau

May 16th DC Conference on Service and Leadership
Washington, DC

May 17th 1st Presbyterian Church of High Point
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

May 17th Fellowship Presbyterian Church of
Greensboro Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

May 18th Foundry United Methodist Church
Washington, DC

May 19th Concord University
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

May 20th Maryville College
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

May 21st Talmud Torah Congregation of St Paul
Washington, DC

May 23rd United Methodist Student Forum
United Methodist Church, Washington, DC

May 27th Iona College
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

May 27th Lincoln School Youth Services
Opportunities Project, Washington, DC

June 2nd 1st Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

June 3rd AVODAH: Jewish Service Corps
Washington, DC
June 4th Etgar 36
Washington, DC

June 6th Summerville Presbyterian Church
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

June 10th Lexington Presbyterian Church
Pilgrimage, Washington, DC

June 11th First United Methodist Church of Mason City
United Methodist Church, Washington, DC

June 11th University Presbyterian Church of Chapel Hill

Pittsburgh Food Not Bombs Under Attack

Source: Pittsburgh City Paper

On the afternoon of June 8, the activist group Food Not Bombs delivered free vegetarian meals to the homeless and other Downtown visitors in Market Square -- as it has been doing for years. The only thing that made this weekend's meal notable was what happened the week before.

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

Volunteers with the Pittsburgh chapter of FNB, a nationwide antiwar/antipoverty group, say the group has been serving free food to people of all income levels every Sunday in the Downtown area for the past 14 years. But on Sun., June 1, a book fair was slated for the Square's stage area at the same time, and a fair organizer told the group that since they had no permit, they had to leave.

"We ignored her, started serving our food, then the police came ... and pushed us all the way to Forbes Avenue. We weren't able to see or read a permit," says James Robinson, an FNB volunteer.

The book fair was sponsored by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, a nonprofit organization representing Downtown businesses and dedicated to making the area more vibrant.

Read more [here](#).

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | 2201 P St NW | Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202.462.4822 | Fax: 202.462.4823 | INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG | WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG

POWERED BY  **BIS Global**

[remove from list](#)
[update profile](#)